

## SWOCC, Levitt may negotiate differences

BY JONI HUBRED  
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A federal case pitting one public access cable television host against the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission was voluntarily dismissed and refilled in the state court system.

Todd Levitt, a 36-year-old Farmington Hills resident and attorney, filed suit claiming his First Amendment rights had been violated after SWOCC informed him he had broken the cable studio's rules. "The Todd Levitt Show," a satirical comedy about the legal system, has been on the air since 1999.

It ran afoul of the system when Levitt hosted a wine-tasting, in an attempt to raise money for HAVEN, a women's shelter. SWOCC's policies don't allow alcohol or drugs on the premises.

While Levitt's show continues to be broadcast, SWOCC attorney John Donohue said, he won't be able to use the studio until the issue is resolved. Levitt said SWOCC asked to pre-screen his

next six cable shows before they air.

Levitt's attorney, Stephen Taylor, said his client felt state court was a more appropriate venue for the suit, since it was really a local issue.

"If you're in federal court, it's more distant," Taylor said. "State court moves at a more leisurely pace."

While a new court date hasn't been set, the parties are talking, he added. "We have opened up discussion. My client definitely intends to vindicate his First Amendment rights. We're not interested in any kind of accommodation where my client has to give up his rights."

Taylor doesn't hold out high hopes for a settlement. Donohue said he can't speculate, because he's not sure what Levitt wants. "Their differing views on what's at stake could make the point moot."

"We don't think it's a First Amendment case," he commented. "We think it really has to do with following procedures."

## INKWELL

Mercy High School student, Renata Bankowski and Mercy chemistry teacher Kathy Kitzmann each received awards at the 52nd Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, held May 7-12 in San Jose, Calif.

More than 1,200 students from 38 different countries competed in the fair which is considered the "Olympics of Science Competition."

Bankowski, a Redford resident, received the following awards:

■ Third place from the American Psychological Association - \$250 certificate.

■ Third place from Showboard, Inc. for the best use of scientific method on a project display board - \$50 certificate.

■ Fourth Place Grand Award in the category of Behavioral Science - \$500 certificate.

Of the 11 students who attended the Science Fair from the Detroit area, Bankowski was the only student to receive a Grand Award and the only student to receive two professional awards.

The title of her project was Study of Cognitive Language Skills of Early Bilinguals and Monolinguals.

Kitzmann, a chemistry teacher at Mercy High School and also a Redford resident, was a recipient of the Intel Excellence in Teaching Award given at the 52nd Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

Seven teachers who best demonstrate the ideals of excellence in science education are recognized each year.

Kitzmann will receive \$5,000 and a high-end, state-of-the-art mobile computer with an Intel Pentium III processor.

## Northwestern rebuild meeting slated

BY DAN WEST  
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Plans for the renovation and reconstruction of Northwestern Highway, 14 Mile, Orchard Lake and Maple roads are nearing completion.

While no orange barrels will appear for at least another three years, the beginning of the long-awaited project appears to be in sight.

The next step takes place Thursday, May 31, with a four-hour informational session at the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Building. Beginning at 4 p.m., the public is invited to review plans and talk with local authorities and designers of the Northwestern Expansion Project.

The project has been under discussion for years by a steering committee which includes representatives from West Bloomfield Township, Farmington Hills, the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Road Commission for Oakland County.

The committee is focused on a plan that would transform the three-way intersection of 14 Mile, Northwestern and Orchard Lake into a roundabout, a European innovation where motorists move through a loop before exiting onto the road they want.

Plans also call for 14 Mile to expand into a three-lane highway, providing a left-turn lane from the roundabout to M-5; Orchard Lake between the roundabout and Maple to expand to six lanes with a traffic island that would discontinue regular left turns on the road; and Maple between Orchard Lake and M-5 to grow into a four-lane highway.

"Construction would be done in phases and it would take years to complete," said West Bloomfield Supervisor David Flaisher.

The steering committee, Flaisher added, will discuss the

information gathered at the May 31 forum when it meets June 8. After that meeting, Flaisher said the panel can seek federal environmental approvals. The process evaluates the project's impact on the area's air and sound.

"Once we get that approval, we can go for funding," he said.

Project estimates range from \$90 to \$100 million. MDOT has had \$28 million earmarked for the Northwestern expansion for years. The steering panel has several options for raising money, including requests for federal funding.

No formal request has been made yet to U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield, but spokesman John Akouri said the congressman would welcome one.

"We've had success getting money in the past," Akouri said. "The congressman's doors will be open and we'll be ready to help them when they decide to seek his assistance."

## Former mayor honored on WWII monument

BY SUE BUCK  
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Longtime Democrat, received congratulations from those who came to watch the school board debate, held in the Farmington Hills council chamber.

Murray received Vagnozzi's certification this week. The project endeavors to include the names of World War II veterans on a permanent memorial honoring their service.

"We're losing them at about 1,000 a month," Murray said. "It's pretty frightening, and I wanted to get Aldo on there."

Vagnozzi started with the U.S.

Army signal corps, then worked as an interpreter. "I like to refer to him as Mr. Farmington and Farmington Hills," Murray said.

"A memorial? Do you have to be dead?" Vagnozzi quipped when he went up to receive his certificate.

"There's nobody more alive than you are," Murray said. "You're supposed to be standing at attention aren't you soldier?"

"I did that for 50 years when I was married," Vagnozzi continued with good natured ribbing.

## MILITARY NEWS

Army Reserve Specialist Opeyeni-Amos Ajani has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the training, the soldier received instruction and practice in drill and ceremony,

marching, rifle marksmanship, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Ajani is the brother of Moses Olaniran of Farmington.



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Bowling  
Cycling  
Golf  
Horseshoes  
Race Walk  
Racquetball  
Road Race  
Shuffleboard  
Softball - Slowpitch  
Swimming  
Table Tennis  
Tennis  
Track & Field  
Triathlon  
Volleyball

### RIBBON EVENTS

3D Archery  
Arts & Crafts  
Baking  
B-Ball Free Throw  
Billiards  
Bridge  
Dancing  
Disc Golf  
Miniature Golf  
Paddleball - Dbls.  
Racquetball - Dbls.  
Volleyball Serving  
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